

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** John Vore      **DATE:** April 25, 2018

**FROM:** Ashley Taylor and Ray Mulé *Ray Mulé*

**SUBJECT:** Swanz Hunting Access Agreement Assessment

John Swanz has had a hunting access agreement with FWP for the last sixteen years under the auspices of HB 454. In return for allowing access to elk hunters, John or a family member receives one 411-21 either-sex elk permit. FWP then issues four additional 411-21 either-sex elk permits by random drawing from among unsuccessful applicants for 411-20 either-sex elk permits; the permits are valid only on the Swanz property. In 2017 Mr. Swanz's family members received 2 either-sex elk permits in exchange for 8 either-sex permits for the public. Mr. Swanz allows holders of these permit holders to hunt either-sex elk throughout the general rifle season. Mr. Swanz also allows holders of 411-20 either-sex elk permits, general elk licenses, or any valid antlerless elk licenses to hunt antlerless elk on his property. There are usually numerous cows and Mr. Swanz generally allows unrestricted public access for cows.

Since this hunting access agreement began in 2002, seventy-two 411-21 either-sex elk permits have been issued to 69 residents and 3 nonresidents. Forty-five hunters used those permits in the last sixteen years, 23 hunters did not use the permits and 4 hunters were unable to be contacted. Table 1 summarizes the 411-21 permit recipient survey completed every spring. In 2017 all eight hunters used their permits and five harvested bull elk. In 2016 five of the eight hunters used their permits and three harvested bull elk. In 2015 all four hunters used their permits and three hunters harvested bull elk. In 2014 all four hunters used their permits but only one harvested an elk. In the sixteen years this permit has been in place two people have stated they did not receive the permit despite licensing having records that the permits were mailed.

Table 1. Summary of the 411-21 either-sex elk permit recipients survey, 2002-2017.

Survey Summary of Permit Recipients	Number of Permits
Successfully harvested elk	18
Hunted and did not harvest an elk	27
Not available when elk were on the property	3
Unable to use permit due to personal reasons	5
Harvested elk during archery season, unable to use permit	3
Hunted other areas, did not use permit	2
Elk did not come on to Swanz's property	8
Did not get elk permit	2
No data available - unable to contact permit recipients	4
<b>Total Permits</b>	<b>72</b>

Eighteen bull elk have been harvested on the Swanz's property using these permits including: 1-1x1, 7-5x5 bulls, 1-5x6, 1-6x4, 4-6x6 bulls, 2-6x7 bull and 2-7x7 bull. The survey of permit recipients indicates that 55 hunters would participate in this hunt again, 6 hunters would not participate again, and 11 hunters did not provide information on future participation. Two hunters would not participate again because they didn't think this property was a good elk hunting location, one hunter isn't much of an elk hunter, and the other did not give a reason.

The John Swanz family's 411-21 either-sex elk permit use is summarized in Table 2. To date the Swanz family has harvested ten bull elk using their 411-21 either-sex elk permits.

Table 2. Summary of Mr. Swanz family's 411-21 either-sex elk permit use, 2002-2017.

Year	Permit Holder	Permit Use	Year	Permit Holder	Permit Use
2002	Jason Swanz (son)	Bull elk	2011	Jamie Gilbert (son-in-law)	None
2003	John Swanz	None	2012	Jamie Gilbert (son-in-law)	None
2004	Jason Swanz (son)	Bull elk	2013	John Swanz	Bull elk
2005	John Swanz	None	2014	Jason Swanz	Bull elk
2006	John Swanz	None	2015	Cody Gilbert	Bull elk
2007	John Swanz	Bull elk	2016	Jason Swanz (son)	Bull elk
2008	Jason Swanz (son)	None	2016	Jamie Gilbert (son-in-law)	None
2009	John Swanz	None	2017	Trace Gilbert (grandson)	Bull elk
2010	Jason Swanz (son)	Bull elk	2017	Jack Swanz (grandson)	Bull elk

John Swanz also has a hunting access corridor agreement with FWP that allows hunters to cross his property to access USFS land in the Snowies. Hunter use of this access corridor is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Hunter use summary of John Swanz's hunting access corridor agreement, 2002-2017.

Year	Hunter Days
2002	235
2003	71*
2004	160
2005	141
2006	146*
2007	193
2008	246
2009	150
2010	126**
2011	180
2012	217
2013	249
2014	211
2015	196
2016	294
2017	109*
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,924</b>

\*Access was limited for a time due to fire danger

\*\*Deep snow prevented hunters from using this corridor for the majority of the season

I recommend renewal of this agreement for the 2018 hunting season.